

Amendment

Application Filed: May 1, 2006

Serial No: 10/560,411

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 through 9 stand rejected. Claim 2 has been previously cancelled. Claim 1 is cancelled with the filing of this preliminary amendment. And claim 10 is new. Claim 10 is now the sole independent claim.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonardi et al. (US2002/0171954) i) in view of Miller (US6227689), or ii) Furst et al. (6347880), or iii) Miller (US6582109) or iv) Pastrick (US5669699). Applicant respectfully traverses all of these rejections.

Bonardi discloses and claims a rear view mirror assembly 200. The mirror sub-assembly 200 includes a mirror and a printed circuit board 206 having a flexible circuit board having electric heater element tracings printed on the front side of the circuit board 206. Finger extensions 215a, 215b have conductive tracings printed thereon allowing electrical connection between the printed circuit board 206 and connector clips 216a, 216b, which, in turn, couple the printed circuit board 206 to bus bar clips 202, 204. Bonardi fails to disclose tabs in the heating foil that extend from the back side of the mirror around its edge and over a plane defined by the front side of the mirror.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 independently four times utilize a secondary reference that is or was owned by a company named Donnelly Corporation. These references will hereinafter be referred to as the Donnelly references.

Each of the Donnelly references discloses an exterior rearview mirror assembly that includes what is commonly referred to as a puddle light. The puddle light shines downwardly onto the ground to illuminate the ground for lurking puddles. The puddle lights include light modules that are secured to a portion of the mirror case or housing. These four Donnelly references all have the light modules for these puddle lights fixedly secured to the mirror case or

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housing. None of the light modules interact with the mirror substrate, are affected by the mirror substrate or move with the mirror substrate.

Claim 10 has been introduced to replace claim 1. Claim 10 clarifies the invention. Claim 10 claims a vehicle outside mirror module and includes a mirror glass 11 that defines a front side 12, a back side and a mirror glass edge 14 extending around the mirror glass 11. The front side 12 defines a plane. A heating foil 20 is flexibly configured on the back side of the mirror glass 11 and is provided with power supply points 35. Tabs 24 project out and away from the back side, around the mirror glass edge 14, and through the plane defined by the front side of the mirror glass 11. A lighting source 60 is disposed on one of the tabs 24 that extend beyond the mirror glass edge 14 and across the plane defined by the front side 12.

Neither Bonardi, nor any of the Donnelly references, alone or in any combination, disclose a heating circuit that includes tabs that supply voltage to a lighting source wherein the tabs extend from the back side of the mirror glass, around the mirror glass edge and to a position on the other side of the front side of the mirror glass.

This is not a mere positioning chose, and the Examiner suggests by invoking Gazda because the position of the light with respect to the mirror glass and having the tabs extend around the mirror glass is not contemplated in the prior art. The importance of this combination cannot be gleaned from any of the combinations. One cannot relocate a part and somehow cure the lack of elements specifically recited in the claims.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully suggests that claim 10, and all claims depending therefrom overcome the four rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and are in condition for allowance.

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It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0852.

Respectfully submitted,

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